

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 NIC-01 AID-20 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 RSR-01 /114 W

----- 033196

R 110625 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9177

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 3856

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, NI, XD

SUBJECT: ARIKPO VISIT TO PAKISTAN

REF: A. LAGOS 3258

B. HONG KONG 4271

SUMMARY: DURING TWO- DAY VISIT TO PAKISTAN, NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MET WITH BHUTTO AND CABINET MINISTERS, DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM GENERAL GOWON, TOOK SYMPATHETIC VIEW PAKISTAN'S PROBLEMS IN PRESS STATEMENTS, AND REVEALED THAT NIGERIANS HAD CONTEMPLATED MEDIATING IN SUBCONTINENT DURING 1972. END SUMMARY.

1. NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DR. OKOI ARIKPO, ARRIVED ISLAMABAD MAY 6 FROM NEW DELHI AND WAS MET BY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS Jatoi AND OTHER OFFICIALS. DURING TWO- DAY VISIT TO PAKISTAN ARIKPO MET WITH PRESIDENT BUTTO FOR HALF HOUR ( RATHER BRIEF MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY CURRENT STANDARDS) AND WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED FOR TWO HOURS ( ABOUT STANDARD). HE ALSO VISITED NEARBY PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY ( STANDARD ATTRACTION FOR VISITING VIP').

2. AT BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER MEETINGS ARIKPO TOLD JOURNALISTS HE HAD DELIVERED PERSONAL MESSAGE TO BHUTTO FROM GENERAL GOWON AND WAS TAKING BACK TO LAGOS MESSAGE TO FMG HEAD FROM BHUTTO. HE SAID DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER AHMED AND PRESIDENT BHUTTO COVERED WORLD SITUATION IN GENERAL, SITUATION PREVAILING IN SUBCONTINENT ( WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, INCLUDING REPATRIATION OF POW' S ), AND BILATERAL MATTERS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS, WITH EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, EXPANSION OF TRADE AND EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL VISITS.

3. ARIKPO WON FRONT PAGE HEADLINES IN LOCAL PRESS BY SAYING IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT THAT NIGERIA WAS " GRIEVED" AT DEALY IN REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANI POW' S FROM INDIA. HE ALSO REVEALED THT GENERAL GOWON HAD INTENDED TO SEND HIM TO SUBCONTINENT IN 1972 " TO SEE IF NIGERIA COULD PLAY ANY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN" BUT SIMLA AGREEMENT HAD MADE VISIT UNNECESSARY. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF SIMLA AGREEMENT WOULD BRING " PEACE, HARMONY AND GOOD RELATIONS" TO SUBCONTINENT AND PRAISED AS " GREAT ACHIEVEMENT" RECENT ADOPTION OF NEW PAK CONSTITUTION. IN RETURN, MINISTER JATOI THANKED NIGERIA FOR ITS " PRINCIPLED STAND" ON PROBLEMS OF SUBCONTINENT AND FOR " UNSTINTED SUPPORT" LAGOS HAD ALWAYS EXTENDED TO PAKISTAN. LATER, AT DINNER HE HOSTED FOR ARIKPO, JATOI DELIVERED HIMSELF OF NOW STANDARD BLAST AT INDIA FOR CONTINUING DETENTION OF PAKISTANI POW' S, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS " MATTER OF AGONY." LOCAL PRESS USED COMBINATION OF THESE REMARKS TO CONSTRUCT HEADLINE SAYING " NIGERIA BACKS ( PAKISTAN) STAND ON POW' S" SOBER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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